

**GUIDED READING ACTIVITY 14-2****Shoguns and Samurai**

Directions: Reading for Accuracy Reading the section and completing the activity below will help you learn more about the shoguns and the samurai of Japan. Use your textbook to decide if a statement is true or false. Write **T** or **F** in the blank, and if a statement is false, rewrite it correctly on the line.

- _____ 1. During the Nara period, the city of Heian was Japan's capital and the center of government and religion.

- _____ 2. Like China, Japan used examinations to hire government officials.

- _____ 3. Japan's government carried out a census to determine who had to pay taxes and serve in the army.

- _____ 4. There was a time of weak emperors in Japan, because many of them were only children.

- _____ 5. Nobles gave land to samurai who agreed to fight for them.

- _____ 6. Samurai were kept very wealthy so that they would remain loyal to their noble.

- _____ 7. The Gempei War was a war between China and Japan.

- _____ 8. A shogun was a commander of the entire emperor's military forces.

- _____ 9. The Mongols defeated the Japanese during violent Pacific storms that the Japanese named "kamikaze."

- _____ 10. Feudalism is the bond of loyalty between a lord and his servant.

Bushido: A loose translation of the word Bushido is "Way of the Warrior".

The 7 Virtues
of Bushido

1. Rectitude (making the right decisions)
2. Valor (courage in battle)
3. Benevolence (generosity and kindness)
4. Respect
5. Honesty
6. Honor
7. Loyalty

Associated Virtues:

Filial Piety (Respect for Parents and Ancestors)

Wisdom

Care for the Aged

The samurai were fighting men, skilled in the martial arts. Samurai had extensive skills in the use of the bow and arrow and the sword. They could just as likely have killed you with their bare hands. Samurai were also great horsemen.

These warriors were men who lived by Bushido; it was their way of life. The samurai's loyalty to the emperor and his overlord, or daimyo, was unsurpassed. They were trustworthy and honest. They lived frugal lives with no interest in riches and material things, but rather they were interested in honor and pride. They were men of true valor. Samurai had no fear of death. They would enter any battle no matter the odds. To die in battle would only bring honor to one's family and one's lord.

In the world of the samurai, the standards of Bushido are the foundations of ethical training and the values of a warrior.

Bushido was developed in Japan between the 9th and 12th Centuries. It is the combination of four religions and their values are like the commandments to a samurai. Those four religions are Buddhism, Confucianism, Zen, and Shinto.

From each of these religions is one major value that contributes to bushido.

From Buddhism, the Bushido Code gets it's attitude toward danger and death. A samurai learns not to fear death, but to accept it and believe in reincarnation or being born again after death.

Through Confucianism, Bushido gets the beliefs in stressing the five moral relationships between the human world, environment, and family. Those five relationships are master and servant, father and son, husband and wife, older and younger brother, and friend to friend.

With the use of Zen meditation, Bushido values teach samurai to "know thyself" and to reach the ultimate "absolute." This "absolute" is when samurai get to point where their thoughts and emotions are at a level beyond what words can describe.

From the last religion contributing to Bushido, Shinto, comes the virtue of loyalty and patriotism. A samurai learns to represent and honor those of higher class than them. They pledge their loyalty to the emperor, daimyo, and higher ranked samurai.

All of these things and more combined, make up the basis of samurai training and philosophy.

1. What was Zen's contribution to bushido?
2. Which religious tradition contributed to bushido the concepts of loyalty and patriotism?
3. How do all these ideas from different belief systems come together to make an effective code for the samurai?

The Code of Bushido

1. Samurai: _____

2. Seppuku: _____

3. Daimyo: _____

4. Values: _____

The Code of Bushido

I live by the Code of Bushido, or the way of the warrior.
Honor, bravery, and loyalty come before all else.

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper appears slightly aged or off-white. There is no handwriting or other markings on the page.